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# Federal Agency and Federal Library Reports

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## National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

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Executive Director

For the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), 1988 was a year marked by program accomplishments, internal changes, and controversy. Highlights of the year include enactment of the law calling for a second White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS), presentation of the first NCLIS Recognition Award, establishment of a Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data, publication of the NCLIS Hearings on Sensitive but Not Classified Information, and progress in the governance, information age, and information literacy and education programs. A closed session of the year's first NCLIS meeting, at which a representative of the FBI explained the FBI Library Awareness Program, engendered controversy that reflected on the commission and mobilized large segments of the library profession. [See the special report "Rights for Users of Information: Conflicts and Balances among Privacy, Professional Ethics, Law, National Security" by C. James Schmidt, earlier in Part 1 — *Ed.*]

### Commissioners and Staff

Longtime NCLIS Vice Chairman Bessie Boehm Moore, who has served on the commission since its creation by Congress in 1971, was not reappointed in 1988, and was replaced by Commissioner-designate Charles E. Reid of New Jersey. At a subsequent commission meeting, Moore was voted the title of vice chairman emeritus, a "first" in the history of NCLIS. Commissioner-designate Elinor H. Swaim of North Carolina was appointed to complete the term of Patricia Barbour, who resigned from the commission in April. Both Raymond J. Petersen of Connecticut and sitting Commissioner Julia Li Wu were appointed and confirmed by the Senate, and Commissioners Margaret Phelan and Wanda L. Forbes were reappointed. Commissioners-designate Forbes, Phelan, Reid, and Swaim became full commissioners by recess appointment of President Reagan. Commissioner George H. Nash, scholar-in-residence at the Hoover Institution, saw publication of the critically acclaimed second volume of his biography of Herbert Hoover.

Early in 1988, Executive Director Vivian J. Arterbery resigned to return to the Rand Corporation. Commissioners Margaret Phelan and Daniel H. Carter served consecutive stints as acting executive director until the new executive director, Susan K. Martin, joined the commission in August. Former director of the Milton S. Eisenhower Library of Johns Hopkins University, Martin brings a background in academic librarianship, library networking, and information technologies to NCLIS. Deputy Director David Hoyt and longtime staff members Dorothy Pollet Gray and Marti Quigley also left the commission in 1988.

### **FBI Library Awareness Program**

At its January 14 meeting in the San Antonio Public Library, NCLIS heard a presentation in closed session by FBI agent Thomas DuHadway about the FBI Library Awareness Program. As described by the FBI, this program deploys agents to various academic and scientific and technical libraries to question and elicit the cooperation of library staff members in observing suspicious behavior on the part of potential foreign intelligence operatives. The transcript of this presentation was released, with some portions excised, under a Freedom of Information Act request. Opposition to this program and to NCLIS's perceived tolerance of it mounted in the library and other communities; in response, NCLIS unanimously adopted a resolution reaffirming its commitment to open access to information for all, the right of privacy for all library users, and unequivocal support of First Amendment rights.

### **WHCLIS II**

On August 8, President Reagan signed PL 100-382, authorizing and requesting the president to call and conduct a White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) between September 1, 1989 and September 30, 1991. NCLIS, along with many other individuals and organizations, had supported this bipartisan legislation, which had 72 cosponsors in the Senate and 178 in the House of Representatives. The conference is to be planned and conducted under the direction of NCLIS in cooperation with the entire library/information community. In a 1985 report, the WHCLIS Preliminary Design Group identified library and information services for the three overarching themes of literacy, productivity, and democracy as the focal point of the conference.

The law authorizes a \$6 million appropriation to provide states and territories with matching funds for their preconferences and to support the national conference. Maximum flexibility is reserved for state activities, and private fund raising is encouraged. A 30-member Advisory Committee, to be appointed by the president, Speaker of the House, president pro tempore of the Senate, and NCLIS chairman, including the Librarian of Congress and secretary of education, provides policy oversight for the conference. The law also stipulates that conference delegates be drawn equally from four groups: library and information professionals; supporters such as trustees and Friends groups; local, state, and federal government officials; and the general public.

By the end of 1988, 26 members of the advisory committee had been appointed, with two forthcoming each from the Senate and the White House. No action had yet

been taken on appropriation of the authorized funds, without which little can be done to move the conference forward.

### **Recognition Award**

The first annual NCLIS Recognition Award, established to honor initiative in improving and promoting the nation's library and information services, was presented to Pizza Hut, Inc., for its "Book It" National Reading Incentive Program. The program, which involves more than 14 million children and their parents and teachers nationwide, provides incentives and rewards for children's reading accomplishments. Pizza Hut was honored at a special ceremony held in the Indian Treaty Room of the White House during the April commission meeting, when Larry Whitt, vice president of public affairs for Pizza Hut, accepted a mounted Steuben crystal bowl engraved with the Great Seal of the United States as a symbol of the award.

### **Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data**

The National Center for Education Statistics and NCLIS have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to continue joint development of the Federal-State Cooperative System for Public Library Data (FSCS). Worked out over the course of the year by a task force chaired by John G. Lorenz, the FSCS action plan builds on and expands the 1987 12-state pilot project conducted by the American Library Association under contract to the Department of Education. This system, when fully developed, will collect and publish public library statistics annually and fill a gap in statistical information that has existed since 1982.

The goal is to initiate a structure in all 50 states for coordinated data-gathering activities related to public library statistics. Subordinate tasks include identifying standard collecting and reporting methodologies; establishing reporting period consistency; adopting uniform definitions and standard reporting formats; and providing effective communication channels among participants at the local, state, regional, and national levels. The current MOU calls for NCLIS and NCES to develop an implementation plan for FSCS, develop communication channels between the states and NCES, develop a process for providing technical assistance to state library agencies, train state data coordinators both at home and in a "hands-on" experience at NCES, and create a user review panel. To this end, NCES will transfer \$225,000 to NCLIS in FY 1989.

John Lorenz, who was appointed coordinator of the program within the NCLIS offices, is working closely with NCES staff, the state library data coordinators, and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA). Because NCLIS is not an operating organization, COSLA is seen as a reasonable home for the Federal/State Cooperative System, as fully implemented.

### **Other Programs**

During 1988, NCLIS initiated a number of programs that are still being developed. These include a pilot project with ACTION RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program), the RSVP Intergenerational Library Assistance Project, which utilizes senior

volunteers working with children in after-school public library activities; the Information for Governance program, focusing on three exemplary public library services geared to both citizen and government official information needs; and the Information Age program to convene a series of expert task forces to define the impact of the information age on society and provide recommendations for policy initiatives at the federal level.

The commission received \$5,000 from Gaylord and a grant of \$20,000 from the Council on Library Resources for an invitational symposium to bring together school librarians, teachers, school administrators, curriculum specialists, and others to suggest major improvements in the education system by incorporating information resources and librarians fully into the teaching process. In the international arena, NCLIS published the previously adopted trilateral Glenerin Declaration and served as the intermediary in securing \$216,000 in State Department grants for 12 projects sponsored by various organizations. NCLIS also started a policy of adhering to the permanent paper standard by publishing the *Hearings on Sensitive but Not Classified Information* and its *Annual Report 1986-1987* on alkaline paper.